

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2006, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, and have canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-28 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 and 16-21 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute at least some of the canceled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Accordingly, claims 8-15 and 22-28 are now pending in this Application. Claims 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25 and 28 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 14, 15 and 28 have been allowed.

Claims 8-13 and 22-27 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten these claims in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 8-13 and 22-27 are now in allowable condition.

Conclusion

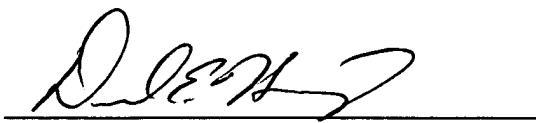
In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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